

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 11-26, as follows:

--As a still image encoding scheme, JPEG is currently prevalent. JPEG was standardized by ISO (International Organization for Standardization). As a moving image encoding scheme, Motion JPEG that exploits JPEG as intra-frame coding is known. Furthermore, as the Internet proliferates, coding that can assure higher functions and higher image quality than JPEG used so far is demanded. For this reason, ISO is laying down new still image coding standards. This activity is generally called "JPEG2000". Refer to Toda, "Special report JPEG2000 Explore Next Generation Image Technique," *C MAGAZINE* ~~October~~ November 1999, pp. 6-10, for an outline of JPEG2000. A region ROI (Region of ~~Interesting~~ Interest) to be decoded to have higher image quality than surrounding portions is a new function, and is a helpful technique.--